



AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Amendments

Attached herewith is an amended set of claims.

Claim 1 has been amended to specify that the band cleaning mechanism comprises a rotating cleaning device. This claim feature was present in claim 3 as filed. Accordingly, claim 3 has been cancelled.

Claim 1 has been further amended to specify that both the first portion and the second portion of the screen band are arranged to filter debris from sewage when both portions are submerged. This feature is disclosed in the application as filed, at page 12, lines 9 – 11.

Claims 4 and 5 have been amended to change their dependency.

Claim 12 has been amended to specify that the band cleaning mechanism comprises a rotating cleaning device. Accordingly, claim 13 has been cancelled, and claims 14 and 15 have been made dependent from claim 12.

Claim 24 has been amended to correct an error. The second “second” portion should be a steeper portion, as disclosed in paragraph [0010].

Remarks

Novelty

Claims 1, 2, 6-8, 10-12, 16-19, and 21-26 have been rejected under 102(a or b) as being anticipated by the Applicant’s Admitted Prior Art (“AAPA”).

This rejection is not supported by the admitted prior art. The general state of the art described in paragraph [0006] of the application as filed relates to screens in the form of a horizontal moving band. The screening apparatus is different in that it comprises a steeper portion that extends to an elevated position.

The present amendment introduces an additional point of distinction, in that both the first and the second portion may be submerged, whereas the upper portion of prior art horizontal belts is intended to operate above the water level.

Prior art reference Hirs uses a water jet or an air jet for cleaning, which is different from a cleaning device made of a solid but flexible material.

The present amendment introduces an additional point of distinction, in that the cleaning mechanism is specified to comprise a rotating cleaning device.

Claim 24 contains numerous features not disclosed in the AAPA, such as:

- A panel attached to a weir wall;
- Which panel supports a guide for one edge of the screen band;
- An emergency overflow level